LE·HI·HO News

the Lehigh Valley Homophile Organization
Box 1003, Moravian Station, Bethlehem, Pa. 18018

FEBRUARY 1980

Our next general meeting and social hour will take place on Sunday, February 24 at 2:00 p.m. in the Unitarian Church of the Lehigh Valley, two blocks south of the 1500 block of Broadway, Bethlehem (Fountain Hill). Reminders: A benefit for PRIDE '80, the 3rd Annual State Gay Conference, will be held Wednesday, February 20 at 9:00 p.m. in ROSEMARY'S, located at 2327 Hanover Ave. (Allentown-Bethlehem border). Sharon Ettinger will perform as a singer/guitarist at 10:00 p.m. and a $3.00 donation is requested.

The strongest attempt to-date to eliminate Pennsylvania's "sodomy" laws is underway. With the State Legislature the situation is impossible, and the courts are the best bet. In April the State Supreme Court will hear a case involving the constitutionality of the law. Many lawyers and volunteers are donating services and time toward presentation of the best possible argument. However, there are heavy printing, telephone and miscellaneous costs which must be met by donations. You may contribute through LE-HI-HO (mark contributions for this cause) or directly to the Sexual Law Reporter, 1735 Naudain St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19146 (contributions are then tax-deductible.) The law in question provides 2 years imprisonment/ $5.000 fine for conviction of "voluntary deviate sexual intercourse", which is defined as oral or anal intercourse between any human beings who are not husband and wife. It is used for legal entrapment, possible blackmail, and to justify discrimination against gay men and women in many areas (employment, housing, etc.) on the grounds of their "criminal" conduct. Our best chance so far has come to topple this archaic law and join the other 21 states who have liberated themselves. But we must all help- NOW!

Seven group members formed a theatre party and journeyed to Broadway on February 9 to see Martin Sherman's play Bent. Review: Bent is the story of one man's terrible journey toward self-affirmation. Set in Nazi Germany of the 30's, each of the two acts begins with good humor but moves toward an emotionally shattering climax that arouses utter and gripping silence in the audience. Max (Richard Gere, star of the new film "American Gigolo"), a gay man who believes he is incapable of love, and therefore unworthy of being loved, discovers his ability to love during some of the most brutal and de-humanizing events ever portrayed on stage. Although it may leave the audience stunned, the final scene , with its act of self-acceptance and free will in the face of Nazi atrocities, may also move the same viewers, especially if they are gay, to a greater awareness of their own capacities to love. David Dukes as Max's concentration camp companion Horst, David Marshall Grant as his lover Rudy and Gregory Salata as the heterosexual transvestite who betrays Max and Rudy are all excellent-- perhaps even more effective than Gere. Although it is not a perfectly molded play, Bent does deliver a tremendous emotional wallop and is well worth seeing. -R. Steelman (New Apollo Theater, 234 W. 43rd, Phone 212-921-8558. Tickets currently easy to obtain).

The film "Cruising" with Al Pacino opens February 19 in Allentown; it deals with brutal mutilation murders of gay men in New York City. The gay community there interfered greatly with the filming due to its reported seamy and repulsive portrayal of gay people, and the controversy may be renewed upon the film's release.